

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PRS-01 INR-07 CIAE-00
SS-15 NSC-05 /051 W
-----221821 001236 /46

P R 221748Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0864
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03024

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, SA
SUBJECT: MEDICAL CONDITION OF KING KHALID

REFERENCE: LONDON 2971 (NOTAL)

1. IN AFTERMATH OF GUARDIAN STORY ABOUT KING KHALID'S HEALTH, EMBOFF CALLED ON SAUDI EMBOFF FOUZAN AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 21. FOUZAN DEPRECATED GUARDIAN STORY, SAYING HE HAD JUST COME FROM HOSPITAL WHERE KING KHALID IS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND HAS BEEN RECEIVING STREAMS OF ARAB NOTABLES, SUCH AS RULERS OF KUWAIT AND BAHREIN SUNDAY AND PRINCE SAUD MONDAY. WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY IF GUARDIAN STORY THAT SURGEON FOUND BONE INFECTION WAS TRUE, FOUZAN ANSWERED, "I DON'T KNOW, I AM NOT A DOCTOR". FOUZAN THOUGHT KING KHALID WOULD REMAIN IN LONDON FOR SOME TIME IN ANY CASE, SINCE WHEN HE RETURNS TO SAUDI ARABIA HE WILL IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL CUSTOM HAVE TO RECEIVE A GREAT HORDE OF WELL-WISHERS WHICH WOULD EXHAUST HIM IF HE HAS NOT RECOVERED HIS STRENGTH.

2. LONDON TIMES FEBRUARY 22 CARRIES FOLLOWING SMALL ITEM ON INSIDE PAGE: "THE CONDITION OF KING KHALID OF
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SAUDI ARABIA WAS SAID TO BE VERY SATISFACTORY IN THE WELLINGTON HOSPITAL, LONDON, YESTERDAY, AFTER A RECENT HIP OPERATION". THIS ITEM MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY SAUDI EMBASSY TO COUNTER GUARDIAN STORY.

3. DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEBRUARY 22, FCO SAUDI DESK OFFICER KEALY, WHO HAD BEEN IN CONTACT

WITH SAUDI VISITORS, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD OBTAINED
THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GUARDIAN ARTICLE "MAY NOT BE SO
FAR REMOVED FROM THE TRUTH," AND THAT A SECOND OPERATION
MAY BE NECESSARY. KEALY'S IMPRESSION IS THAT WHILE THE
PRESENT MEDICAL SITUATION IS "NOT ALL THAT SINISTER",
THE KING'S HEALTH IS NOT GOOD AND KEALY SPECULATED THAT
"HE MIGHT NOT LAST TOO LONG".

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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